



Nativity Scene by Tim Chalk

Edinburgh Churches  
**TOGETHER**  
working across the city

# EDINBURGH CHURCHES TOGETHER

## Newsletter November 2019—January 2020

In this edition:

- Edinburgh's Christmas 2019
- Apostleship of the Sea
- An Urban Peace Garden
- A Theatre Chaplain ... and much more

Visit [edinburghchurchestogether.org.uk/resources/newsletter-resources/](https://edinburghchurchestogether.org.uk/resources/newsletter-resources/)  
for printable versions of material from this newsletter  
Follow us on [Facebook@EdinburghChurchesTogether](#) Twitter [@ECTEdinburgh](#)  
Please email material for Spring edition (covering March, April, May)  
by 21 February 2020 to [imogen.gibson.ect@gmail.com](mailto:imogen.gibson.ect@gmail.com)

## WELCOME!

As there are still 6 weeks to go until Christmas, I can quite understand if readers are not in the festive spirit yet! However, in this edition of the newsletter we have a Christmas theme with news of the ecumenical Nativity and carol service. The ECT website will feature its 'Find A Church at Christmas' interactive map again this year - find out how to get involved. In January, ECT will again

be giving a Week of Christian Unity Service to which all are warmly invited. Read on for details of all these events as well as features on plenty of other ecumenical events and activities. Downloadable flyers for Edinburgh's Christmas 2019 and other events are available on:

<http://edinburghchurchestogether.org.uk/resources/newsletter-resources/>

## EDINBURGH'S CHRISTMAS 2019 – NATIVITY AND CAROL CONCERT



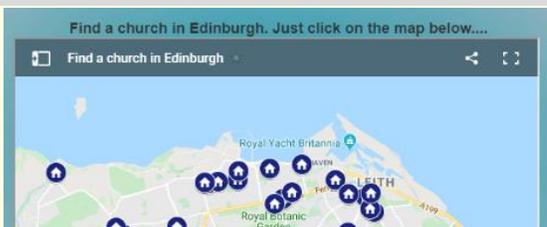
You are warmly invited to take part in continuing the joyful Edinburgh tradition of celebrating Christmas with an outdoor Nativity and Carol concert in the centre of

the city. This year's concert will take place on the Mound on Sunday 1st December from 3pm - an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather together to celebrate Christmas - to share the peace and goodwill of the season. Join with choirs from across the city singing familiar Christmas carols and featuring the Salvation Army Brass Band. Choirs include: Origin Scotland and the Blackhall St Columba's Choir, Wester Hailes Education Centre School Choir, and St Andrew's and St George's West Choir. The Nativity scene, by Tim Chalk, gifted to the city by Sir Tom Farmer, will be on display throughout the Christmas festival. At the concert this scene will be blessed by Archbishop Leo Cushley, and followed by a Christmas address from Bishop John Armes and prayers for the city by Revd Angus Matheison the Moderator of Edinburgh Presbytery. The Rt Honorable Frank Ross, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, will conclude the event with a word of thanks. Andrew Gregg, the city

centre Work Place Chaplain, will link the parts of the concert. (If the weather is inclement, the concert will move indoors.) A number of charitable causes are being supported through this event: Origin Scotland and the Blackhall St Columba's Choir are raising support for the Cape Town Gospel Choir in their mission to promote unity and understanding despite racial, social and economic divisions in South Africa. Representatives will carry out a bucket collection during the event; The Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal - the event is acting as a collection point for donations of new unwrapped toys and gifts for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present. Volunteers will then wrap the gifts, which will be distributed to children and families in the city through The Salvation Army's own networks, local groups and social services. The Christmas season can be a time of stress, anxiety and loneliness for many people, and in recognition of this, Workplace Chaplaincy will provide a Listening Post at the Christmas Present donation point with people available to talk to. These are people who will listen, who will care and respect what is said in confidence.

*Edinburgh's Nativity and Carol Concert is brought to you by: City of Edinburgh Council, Sir Tom Farmer, Underbelly and Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together*

## FIND A CHURCH IN EDINBURGH



If you would like your church services linked to our Google map on our website please send the details in an email to [imogen.gibson.ect@gmail.com](mailto:imogen.gibson.ect@gmail.com) by 30th November. (Please don't attach them as a flyer.)

## 24 DOORS OF ADVENT

From 1st to 24th December 2019 explore some of Edinburgh's hidden gems through a real-life Advent Calendar. Several churches are taking part! [www.edinburghschristmas.com/whats-on/24-doors-of-advent18](http://www.edinburghschristmas.com/whats-on/24-doors-of-advent18)

## Unusual kindness



Edinburgh Churches Together warmly invite you to our service held for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This will take place on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 at the Central Methodist Church, Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX. The service will be in the evening - the exact time TBC. Check our website and social media. We are delighted

that the Rt Rev Bishop John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh for the Scottish Episcopal Church will preach at the service. The materials for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta). Many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer. Hospitality is a much-needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. Materials for WPCU can be found at on the CTBI website [ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer](http://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer)

### FATHER PHILIP'S FORTIETH!

On Sunday 29th September a Mass was held at St Patrick's, Cowgate, to celebrate 40 years of ordained priesthood for Mgr Philip Kerr, priest at St Patrick's. There was standing room only in the church for a moving and warm-hearted service with friends attending from Philip's previous appointments in Falkirk, Stirling, Bannockburn, Cowie and elsewhere. Philip continues to be involved in ecumenical organizations,



notably as Convener of Edinburgh Churches Together, and this was conveyed with a procession of gifts symbolizing the many strands of his career. The service was followed by a delicious buffet. All at Edinburgh Churches Together would like to thank Philip for his continued involvement. Best wishes from us all!

### RUNNING HOME FUNDRAISER

You may remember Mark Calder from a feature in our previous newsletter, running 14 ultra-marathon pilgrimages to raise money for Iraqi Christians rebuilding their homes and lives in the Middle East. Mark has finally completed his journey, hung up his running shoes and is ready to party! Join him for a

ceilidh to celebrate the end of Running Home 2019 on Saturday on 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 18:30 - 23:30 at St Peters Scottish Episcopal Church, Luton Place, Edinburgh EH8 9PE. Music will be provided by rising star Ellyn Oliver and her band along with dance band Fiddle me Timbers. Doors will open at



6pm for a 6.30pm start. A collection will be taken in aid of Running Home. There will be food in the form of late evening stovies - plus a cash bar.

*Continuing our series on chaplaincy in the workplace, David Todd, Arts Outreach Project Leader for Greenside Parish Church and member of Theatre Chaplaincy UK, writes about the project and his work.*



Greenside Parish Church's Arts Outreach Project started in July 2015. I am privileged to be the Project Leader and, as a Lay Reader in the Scottish Episcopal Church, was honoured to be employed by the Church of

Scotland in such a venture. The main thrust of the project is to people working in the arts and entertainment industry in Greenside Parish and my first ports of call were to the Edinburgh Playhouse the Omni Centre in Greenside Place. Knowing about Theatre Chaplaincy and Work Place Chaplaincy I joined Theatre Chaplaincy UK and through contacts in the theatre world that I had maintained, having been the first Theatre Manager of Edinburgh Festival Theatre, it was not long before I became the first Theatre Chaplain to Edinburgh Playhouse. Again, using contacts in the arts, I introduced myself to the Omni Centre and after a couple of meetings with the tenants was allowed to visit all the food outlets, the gym, the car park and the cinema as Work Place Chaplain.

Theatre Chaplaincy UK is very clear that the pastoral and practical support that their chaplains offer to people working in the theatre is to people of any faith or none and proselytising is not permitted. Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland, whose training sessions I bought into, has the same ethos in the work place so from the outset my work was ecumenical, interfaith and with people of no faith. The head of the Methodist Church in the area was Chaplain at the King's Theatre and when he found that he did not have enough time to devote to the Theatre he passed that role on to me. I was thrilled, having been the Theatre Manager there after its merger with the Festival Theatre in 1998. Not long after that he and

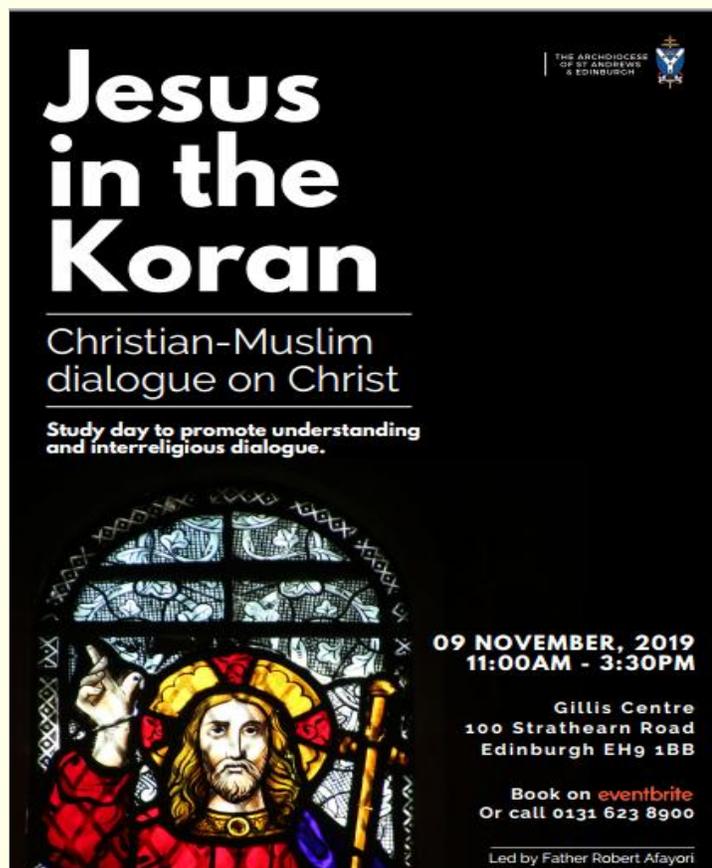
his wife who was the Methodist Minister at Nicolson Square went south to the Reading District and I added the Festival Theatre to my portfolio. After a slightly longer wait I became Chaplain to the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company.

My strategy in all four theatres has been to assist in the welcome of visiting companies (and in the case of the Royal Lyceum of newly formed companies for specific plays) and in so doing to get to know the resident staff. I have posters with my contact details at Stage Door and Front of House and over the years have been getting to know staff and let it be known that I am available. I am sometimes summoned by a theatre in a time of crisis or to look out for individuals and sometimes contacted directly by people who want to talk to someone other than their company manager. This work is also supported by Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together as the Interim Moderator at Greenside Parish Church in 2015 was also the minister of St Andrew's & St George's West Church which, along with St Cuthbert's and St John's Episcopal Church, forms that ecumenical partnership. I was encouraged to think of looking at my role the other way round and introducing church folk to the theatre and to the cinema. I started to take folk to see selected films at the Vue Cinema in the Omni Centre where I was chaplain and we had a discussion afterwards about "where was God in the story". I quickly found that films that were not overtly religious encouraged more discussion about people's faith and showed films in St Andrew's & St George's Church and took folk to plays at the Royal Lyceum Theatre from the five churches with which I was associated. In the course of this someone asked me if I had ever thought of taking Syrian refugees to the theatre. I admitted that I had not but asked the manager of the King's and Festival Theatre if he might ever consider giving free tickets for refugee families. He immediately said "yes" and through Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees I made contact with refugee families in Edinburgh and invited them to the theatre. It was Ramadan - I hadn't thought that, of course, many would be Muslim - so they thanked me for the invitation but declined. After Ramadan I tried again and quickly realised that it was the children who were going to benefit most from such visits and the parents were delighted to accompany their children who were being successfully entertained by others. Edinburgh Playhouse has also bought into this work and offered tickets for pro-

ductions. Theatre for children and, especially, work for very small children in the Studio at the back of the Festival Theatre has been much appreciated by the Syrian refugees and this work, now also supported by Calton Youth Ministry Trust, extends to those whose refugee status is not confirmed. The Festival Theatre, inspired by the refugee theatre visits, hosted a day for the “weekend club” - the group of families that meets once a month on a Saturday for a meal. They offered music and art workshops for the children, a tour of the theatre for the adults and lunch for everyone. Over 120 people attended. Another such event is in the planning stages. The Festival Theatre also does good work for people living with dementia and, as

chaplain, I go to the Monday afternoon Tea Dance to engage with those suffering from dementia, their families and carers and get to know the staff at the theatre better. Much as the theatre can cinema visits can encourage those who might not otherwise come out in the evening so the Tea Dances break down some of the isolation experienced by those living with dementia. When the project started I had never imagined that I would be working with church folk of different denominations, refugees of different faiths and people living with dementia as well as offering pastoral and practical support to people working in the theatre of any faith or none and I am blessed to be allowed to carry out such work.

## EVENTS AROUND EDINBURGH



**Jesus in the Koran**

Christian-Muslim dialogue on Christ

Study day to promote understanding and interreligious dialogue.

09 NOVEMBER, 2019  
11:00AM - 3:30PM

Gillis Centre  
100 Strathearn Road  
Edinburgh EH9 1BB

Book on [eventbrite](#)  
Or call 0131 623 8900

Led by Father Robert Afayori

Church of St John the Evangelist, Princes Street, Edinburgh

St John's Theology Symposium 2019



The Symposium is co-sponsored by the

Centre for Theology and Public Issues, Edinburgh University Divinity School

**How has Christianity changed since 1900 and why?**

Speaker: Professor Brian Stanley

Edinburgh University Divinity School

Brian Stanley is Professor of World Christianity in the University of Edinburgh

He is primarily a historian of Christian Missions and of Christianity in the non-Western world

The Seminar will be based on his award-winning book,

*Christianity in the Twentieth Century: A World History* (Princeton University Press 2018)

The Cornerstone Centre at St John's

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch provided

There is no fee to attend, but places are limited

If you wish to attend, please apply to [admin@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk)



**'Right Use of Power' workshop:** Many caring people in helping professions are cautious about the idea of power, not wishing to have 'power over' others. Come and join an afternoon affirming positive relationship

to role power. Saturday 23 November, 1.30pm-4pm, St Columba's By the Castle, Central Edinburgh. For faith leaders, support workers, pastoral teams, counsellors, spiritual directors etc. Facilitated by Spiritual Director and Pastoral Supervisor, Elizabeth White.

[www.reflectivespaces.org.uk/soul-care-workshops](http://www.reflectivespaces.org.uk/soul-care-workshops)

Bookings via:

[rightpower.brownpapertickets.com](http://rightpower.brownpapertickets.com)

City Vision is a pop-up prayer meeting which happens in different churches in different parts of the city. We want to pray for the church's mission in Edinburgh!

Contact Duncan if you would like to co-host a City Vision prayer meeting in your church:  
[duncan@edinburghcitymission.org.uk](mailto:duncan@edinburghcitymission.org.uk)

**2019-20 Dates**

**26 October 2019** 10:30am - 12noon  
 Reid Memorial Church, West Saville Terrace, Edinburgh, EH9 3HY

**30 November 2019** 10am - 11:30am  
 Holyrood Evangelical Church, 121 Montgomery Street, EH7 5EP

**18 January 2020** 6:30pm - 8pm  
 St Barnabas Church, 4 Moredun Park, EH17 7NE

**8 February 2020** 10am - 11:30am  
 King's Church, 104 Gilmore Place, EH3 9PL

**March 2020** Time and date TBC  
 Bruntsfield Evangelical Church

**April 2020** Time and date TBC  
 Granton Baptist Church




**7 PM FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER**  
 OLD PARISH CHURCH  
 HIGH STREET  
 CORSTORPHINE

**7 PM FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER**  
 ST NINIANS CHURCH  
 144 ST JOHNS ROAD  
 CORSTORPHINE

**CHRISTIAN OPEN MIC NIGHTS EDINBURGH**

DO YOU SING OR PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? OR HAVE YOU WRITTEN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP MUSIC AND WANT TO GET IT 'OUT THERE'? COME ALONG AND MEET LIKE MINDED CHRISTIANS AND SING A JOYFUL SONG TO THE LORD! IF YOU WANT TO JUST COME AND LISTEN AND ENJOY, THAT'S GREAT TOO! TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED. FOR MORE INFO CONTACT DUNCAN ON 07849851231 OR [DUNCANWHITTY@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:DUNCANWHITTY@HOTMAIL.COM).

*Organised by Corstorphine Churches Together*



**Roofbreakers**  
 Opening up church to disabled people

Are you interested in making your church more inclusive? Do you want a church community that supports everyone and worship that values those with disabilities? Then please join in our Roofbreaker Network Meetings.

**When?** Saturday 9 November, 1-4 pm

**Where?** Barclay Viewforth Church  
 1 Wright's Houses, Edinburgh, EH10 4 HR

Barclay Viewforth Church is set on Bruntsfield Links, with many bus routes passing by. Going up the hill from the Kings Theatre you will see the church on the left hand side before the links. The level access door is to the left side of the church next to the grass.

**What for?** A simple lunch will be provided at 1.00. We will hear from current Roofbreakers, have a chance to meet and share experiences around Edinburgh churches, and also get to know Janet Eardley of Through the Roof. We will finish with a time of prayer.

RSVP as soon as possible to help with catering.

**Contact:** Elaine Rumney [elaine\\_rumney@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:elaine_rumney@blueyonder.co.uk)

Roofbreakers is affiliated to Through the Roof Charitable Trust Ltd., a UK Registered Company, number 04201510, Registered Charity Number 1087788.



**reflective** worship, **shared** meal  
 6-7.15 pm, **all** welcome

**St COLUMBA'S**  
 BY THE CASTLE

29 September **Holden Evening Prayer**  
 simple, beautiful, participatory singing rehearsal @ 5.30 p.m.

27 October **Spiritual Ceilidh**  
 Bring and share a piece of music, art, writing or a prayer which is meaningful to you (maybe something of your own creation)

1 December **Taizé for Advent**  
 reflective candlelit worship

**St. Columba's by the Castle** Scottish Episcopal Church  
 14 Johnston Terrace, EH1 2PW *look for the blue door next to the Castle Rock Hostel*  
[www.stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk](http://www.stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk)

every refugee welcomed by the local church  
**EDINBURGH**



Monday 11 November, 7pm  
 Central Hall, 2 W Tollcross, Edinburgh, EH3 9BP



Welcome Churches Refugee information evening:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/every-refugee-welcomed-by-the-local-church-edinburgh-tickets-75144961603](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/every-refugee-welcomed-by-the-local-church-edinburgh-tickets-75144961603)

## THE ECUDARE PROJECT

MCT (Murrayfield Churches Together) is an ecumenical partnership of some 30 years standing made up of The Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield Parish Church and Saughtonhall Church. Part of the cement of the partnership has been the connection with the Ecumenical Day Care and Support Women (ECUDARE) project. This is based in Ngong, one of the poorest areas of Kenya, in SW Nairobi. ECUDARE was set up in 2003 by Esther Wanjohi, the Director, to provide quality of life and holistic care for women and their families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. There were three initial strands to the project: centrally run income generating projects, a revolving fund giving loans to participants to set up their own income generation projects and poverty relief. A further project has been added since 2008 which is the establishment of a pre-school and primary school. Ecumenism has shaped the approach to ECUDARE from the very beginning when the partnership with ECUDARE was chosen as a suitable way of celebrating MCT's 21st anniversary in 2008. The partner-



ship was nourished initially by a visit from Esther to MCT in 2008, followed in 2010 with a visit to Kenya by a group from MCT. In 2012 contact continued with a visit to MCT by Esther and her husband Daniel. MCT has raised funds through a wide

range of activities many of which have had the benefit of enabling increased fellowship amongst MCT members. Other local partners have been involved, including a local primary and nursery school. Esther keeps MCT up to date with frequent

photos and news clips. The small-scale nature of the project and the personal links that have been established have enabled the three congregations to feel closely involved with the lives of the women and children in Ngong. The accompanying photos show (1) the beautiful material women were able to purchase with the help of ECUDARE to make 'leso'

- aprons or covers to use while preparing food (2) a recent highly successful and well-attended fundraising event held by Murrayfield Churches Together for ECUDARE.



## APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

*AoS Scottish development officer Euan McArthur describes how this Catholic charity, celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, helps stricken sea farers.* The Apostleship of the Sea is a Catholic charity supporting seafarers worldwide. We provide practical and pastoral care to all seafarers, regardless of nationality, belief or race. Our port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors welcome seafarers, offer welfare services and advice, practical help, care and friendship. The Apostleship of the Sea in Great Britain is part of an international network known to the maritime world as Stella Maris, working in 334 ports with 227 port chaplains in 59 countries. To view where AoS operates globally go to this link. 90% of world trade is transported by ship. However, the life of a modern seafarer can be

dangerous and lonely. They may spend up to a year



at a time away from home, separated from their family and loved ones and often working in harsh conditions. Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) intervened when a Russian ship detained in Leith recently over unpaid wages and safety issues were delivered some essential fresh food to a much-relieved crew. Back in July, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency found widespread deficiencies with the Alexander Tvardovskiy ship. To make matters worse, it was also found that wages had not been paid to the crew and there were other maritime labour convention issues which had given further cause for concern. On being alerted to their desperate plight, emergency supplies were provided by the AoS, a Catholic charity supporting sailors which was originally founded in Glasgow in 1920. Gennadi Kukvinov, the ship's captain, had told how no fewer than nine days had passed since his desperate pleas for supplies had fallen on deaf ears. He said: "I sent the request for food on 8 July. So now we have only some remainders of food. No fresh fruit, some pieces of meat, some pieces of bread." Joe O'Donnell, AoS Senior Regional Port Chaplain for Scotland, stepped in and kindly took the stranded sailors to the local supermarket. Deacon O'Donnell spoke of their perilous plight, saying: "We're here to support the crew because they are having some difficulty getting back home. They're worried and their families are worried and

that's why we're here. We're here to listen and support and point them in the right direction to any agencies we think can help them." The crew of the Alexander Tvardovskiy were eventually paid and the ship set sail from Leith, much to the relief of all concerned. This is a most practical example of how AoS can make a difference to seafarers whilst in obvious need, often cut off thousands of miles from their loved ones. AoS cover various different ports throughout Scotland and across the world, often meeting the needs of seafarers spiritually and offers help regardless of creed, race or nationality. This is not the first time they've come to the rescue in the Port of Leith. Two years ago, Deacon O'Donnell was accompanied by local ship visitor Anne Marie Stephen, in supporting a group of seafarers from a dry cargo ship called Reggae detained in Leith. The ship was Turkish-owned and the crew of nine was made up of six Turkish and three Indian seafarers, who had not been paid for almost three months. As they endured an anxious wait, Anne Marie and Joe took some crew out to help them get money to their families and offered them support and assistance. The crew were extremely grateful to such emergency assistance which paved the way for them to make a safe journey home. Formed near the banks of the River Clyde almost 100 years ago, AoS has expanded globally also but remains proud of its roots.

## ECUMENICAL FRIENDS EDINBURGH

Ecumenical Friends meet at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Lothian Road on Thursdays, 12:30 - 1:45 pm. Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea and Coffee are provided. We ask for a donation of £2 each time you come. We hope you will find much to interest you in our programme. Here's a taste...

### 2019

- 7th Nov Arthur and Judy Chapman: Travelling the Camino
- 14th Nov Norah Summers: Kirchentag 2019
- 21 Nov Mary Miller: Jane Haining
- 28th Nov Martin Bethell: Christians against Poverty
- 5th Dec Jim Wilkie: Advent Meditation



### 2020

- 9th Jan Albert Bogle: Sanctuary First
- 16th Jan Richard Begg: From training area to regular service
- 23rd Jan Jane Dawson: Elizabeth and the Scottish Reformation
- 30th Jan Douglas Galbraith: Church Service Society
- 6th Feb Kevin Douglas: TBC
- 13 Feb Sabrina Tickle/Jasbir Singh: Sikh Sanjog, Leith
- 20 Feb Charmaine McMeekin: The Railway Man
- 27 Feb Marjorie Paton: World Day of Prayer
- 5th Mar TBC
- 12th Mar Mary Henderson: Lenten Meditation

For more information contact Norah Summers via

[office@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk](mailto:office@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk)

Godly Play is a way of exploring our Christian faith and heritage. It does this through sharing sacred stories of God's people, of knowing Jesus through stories of his life and his parables, and understanding the way in which we approach God through lessons on liturgical action and silence. A full Godly Play session mirrors the worship in church. We begin with the welcome at the door from a door person inviting each participant to find their place in the circle with the storyteller. After everyone has arrived, the storyteller gathers the materials for the story. The stories are located on shelves all around the room, surrounding the circle with the Bible. Silence is kept as we experience the story by seeing the materials laid out and hearing the storyteller tell the story. Afterwards, the storyteller looks up from the materials and wonders with the circle by asking open ended questions. This is a safe space to share. The circle wonders out loud or silently and every contribution is valued. Next, we respond to the story through art, reading, writing, prayer or play. There are a variety of response materials in the room to work with or participants can choose to work with any of the stories in the room. Next, we re-gather in the circle to share a light feast - usually something simple like a biscuit, fruit and juice. We say a prayer together. After the feast, we close with a blessing as the circle leaves the space and each individual has an opportunity to say goodbye to the storyteller and door person. Godly Play has its roots in research on children's spirituality and is based on the Montessori tradition of religious education. After decades of research at the Centre for the Theology of Childhood, the US theologian and educationalist Rev Dr Jerome Berryman developed Godly Play. It can be shared with a variety of age groups, including adults. It is shared in many different settings, including churches, care homes, schools, hospitals and prisons. It first came to Scotland in 2003 through the Scottish Episcopal Church and the



Church of Scotland when Rev'd Canon Dr Carrie Applegath and Rev'd Fiona Fidgin were trained in England with Godly Play UK. Carrie brought it back to Old Saint Paul's SEC where it became firmly established as the way forward for children's ministry. She also shared Godly Play in her chaplaincy work at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. Old Saint Paul's hosted the first Storyteller and Door Person training course in Scotland which was led by Dr Rebecca Nye and Rev'd Peter Privett of Godly Play UK. Meanwhile, Fiona and Rev Linda Pollock worked to develop Godly Play within the Church of Scotland. Margaret introduced Alex Mackenzie to Godly Play and in 2009, Cramond Kirk (CofS) became the first church in Scotland to have a dedicated Godly Play room. In 2010, Alex went on to be trained as a trainer for Godly Play. In the following years, Godly Play at Cramond has gone from strength to strength. They now have two Godly Play spaces and their entire children's and youth ministry is based around Godly Play. This is following on from the request from the children and youth themselves who wanted more Godly Play. In 2010, Alex and Margaret established Godly Play Scotland, a sister organisation to Godly Play UK. It is based in the manse basement of Duddingston Kirk (CofS), where another Godly Play room is located. Godly Play Scotland uses this space for discovery days, trainings, lending materials, storyteller network circles and making materials days. Godly Play Scotland now has two additional trainers who are also based in Edinburgh - Michelle Brown from Portobello and Joppa Parish Church (CofS) and Richard Knott from St. Mungo's Church Balerno (SEC). Since Godly Play came to Scotland, it has been shared all around the country. However, it has had the longest time in this city to get firmly established as a way of spiritual development and education with children's and youth ministry in churches of various denominations. There are Godly Play circles meeting in churches in the Scottish Episcopal Church, Church of Scotland,

United Reformed Church, United Free Church, Methodist Church and the Baptist Church. Godly Play is more recently being shared in schools and care homes around Edinburgh too. Some of the longest running circles have been meeting at Old Saint Paul's, Cramond Kirk, St Ninian's Comely Bank (SEC), St Salvador's (SEC), Portobello and Joppa

Parish Church, Augustine United Church, Greenbank Parish Church and Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church. For more information on Godly Play, our events and training opportunities, find us at:

[www.godlyplayscotland.co.uk](http://www.godlyplayscotland.co.uk) or find us on Facebook at Godly Play Scotland and Twitter [@godlyplayscot](https://twitter.com/godlyplayscot)

## POLWARTH PEACE GARDEN

Four years ago, in September, Polwarth Church officially opened its new garden on the canal, the first phase in a project that would lead to a mooring and finally a canal boat. The funding for the garden came through the Armed Forces Community Grant Scheme, because at the time we had strong connections with a charity that helped army veterans using gardening therapy. At that time commemorations were also planned to mark the centenary of the First World War. The veterans created, at another location within our grounds, a garden that focused on Wilfred Owen, the war poet. This included a bench and a large granite plaque both inscribed with words of his poems. We became aware of a project run by Professor Yvonne McEwan from Edinburgh University called Scotland's War. So, we invited her to attend the ceremony and open this particular part of the garden project. But she became enthused by our other garden on the canal and our ambitions to create a mooring and purchase a boat. For in her research into Scotland's role in the War she had learned of unsung heroines, nurses who worked on barges converted into hospital wards to ferry the wounded away from the front lines in Belgium and France. She thought we had a unique location in which they and others could be remembered and commemorated. So began a project that took some time to complete. For the mooring first had to be built and this took some time as Scottish Canals were responsible for this and the process of planning permissions and en-



agement with locals, was lengthy. The mooring was officially opened at the Canal Festival in June 2018. Now the work on the Peace Garden could proceed. The ground at the canal had to be cleared which was a labour intensive job. A grant from ScotMid allowed for the purchase of a stone bench and create the signage and commemoration plaque. Members of a church group called Canal Shed made the plant boxes and arranged the planting of suitable flora. By June 2019 Professor McEwan had also received a grant allowing her access to photographs in the National Museum that showed the nurses on the converted barges and told their story. These are now displayed within the church premises. And so, a day was arranged when I as minister officially opened the garden with Professor McEwan, and the representative of ScotMid present along with the various people from church and community that had created the physical space. A few days later a partnership between the church and another Edinburgh based charity People Know How was launched by the local Member of Parliament, Ian Murray MP as part of the annual Canal Festival. This partnership is now working on a project called All Aboard - Navigating Life Together to purchase a canal boat and use it primarily to provide much needed support to children and young people finding it difficult to transition positively in schools across the city. We would be interested to hear from anyone who might wish to become involved with what we are seeking to achieve.